



Traffic and Parking

Summer 2012



What is the park doing this summer?

Traffic has been increasing over the past few years. In response to this increase in traffic, Yosemite will partner with local communities and businesses this summer to improve traffic circulation so you can have a better visit. The park will do three things this summer:

1. Extend the existing bus lane within Yosemite Valley to an area known as El Capitan crossover to allow for free movement of park shuttles, tour buses, and emergency vehicles.
2. Work with the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) to increase public transit options into the park.
3. Partner with local communities and businesses to inform visitors of traffic conditions and methods to avoid traffic congestion and parking issues within Yosemite Valley.

What can you do to avoid traffic?

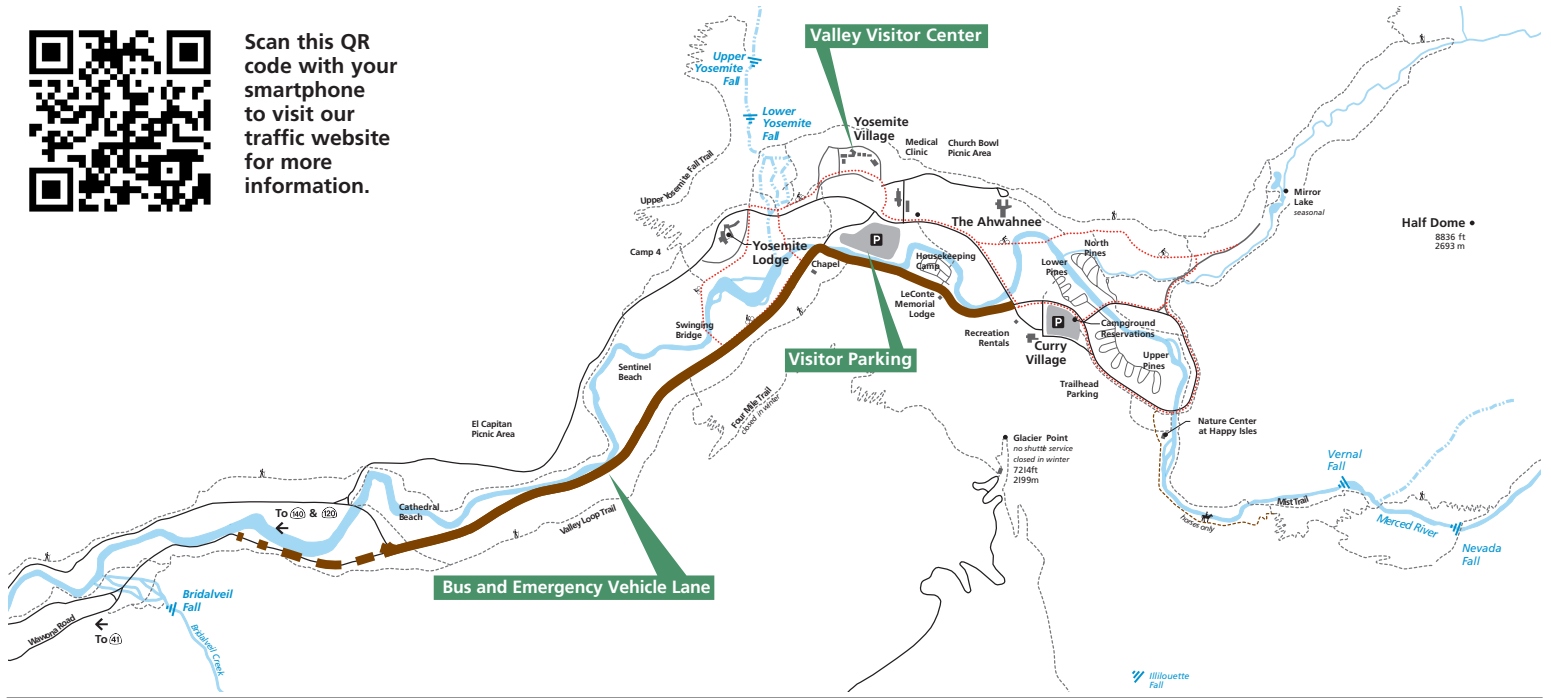
If you're staying in the park, leave your car in its parking space and take the free shuttle system around Yosemite Valley. If you're staying outside of Yosemite in one of our local communities, check the traffic conditions before heading into the park by visiting your local community visitor center for tips to avoid traffic and parking issues this summer.

Why is the park doing this?

Yosemite and its partners want you to have the best visit possible. Over the past few years, visitation has been increasing, which results in greater traffic congestion. This congestion keeps you in your car, and doesn't let you experience all of the beauty and wonder that Yosemite has to offer. The extended bus lane will allow shuttle buses to carry you around the valley; free from traffic congestion. Taking YARTS will allow you to get into the park without the hassle of searching for a parking space. Stopping by a local visitor center in one of our surrounding communities will give you the best information possible so you can make decisions that are right for you about how you want to experience Yosemite. You can always drive your car into the park, but there are alternatives available to you.



Scan this QR code with your smartphone to visit our traffic website for more information.



Extended Bus Lane

By extending the bus lane, park shuttle buses; YARTS; tour buses; trams and emergency vehicles will be able to move more freely around Yosemite Valley.

The Yosemite Valley road system, shown above, can only accommodate a certain number of vehicles before traffic slows down due to congestion. Over the past few summers, Yosemite Valley has exceeded this number of vehicles every day during the months of June through August. Allowing for better flow of buses and emergency vehicles will allow you to have a better experience once you're in Yosemite Valley. Take the free shuttle buses to look at the mountains and trees instead of looking at traffic.

Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System

The Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) will increase the number of runs this summer and will introduce a new service on Highway 120 North from Sonora and Groveland.

This increased service will allow you more options for getting into the park without the hassle of traffic or parking. Instead of sitting in your car, you can relax on YARTS and look at the scenery instead of the road. Service will be on Highway 140 from Merced and Mariposa; Highway 120 North from Sonora and Groveland; and Highway 120 East from Mono County including Lee Vining and Mammoth Lakes.

Partnering With Local Communities and Businesses

Stopping by a local visitor center near your hotel before heading into the park will allow you to know how traffic is looking for the day and will possibly give you more options to have a great visit.

A visit to Yosemite National Park is more than just a visit to Yosemite Valley. There are some great things to do in our local communities. Visitor centers in our local communities can tell you how traffic is looking for the day, give you tips to avoid congestion, and can tell you of some other fun activities that you may not have known about before planning your trip. Here's some information from our neighboring community visitor centers.

The Mariposa area is filled with the history of California's Gold Rush. Learn about interesting areas such as the California State Mining and Mineral Museum and Mariposa Museum and History Center.

In the Groveland area, swim at the Rainbow Pools, raft on the Tuolumne River, or explore Hetch Hetchy Valley.

On Yosemite's East Side, see the hauntingly beautiful tufa towers on Mono Lake. Explore a ghost town at Bodie State Historic Park. See unique geology at Devil's Postpile National Monument, or soar above the mountains on a scenic lift ride at June and Mammoth Mountains.

In the Oakhurst Area, Go fishing or boating at Bass Lake. Ride the Yosemite Mountain Sugar Pine Railroad. Sample local wine along the Madera Wine Trail, or relax at the Ascent Spa at Tenaya Lodge.